(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the issuance of such a paper is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) A draft White Paper on ISI activities in India is kept ready. However, it is felt that at this juncture, keeping in view the overall national interest, the While Paper cannot be made public.

Report of amnesty international on minorities

1617. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the latest report of Amnesty International in which the charge of minority persecution was levelled against India;

(b) whether the National Human Rights Commission has issued a rejoinder to Amnesty International's observations on the minority status in India; and

(c) whether Government of India provides free and fair access to international human rights activists for visiting our detention camps, jails and prisons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Amnesty International' is an International NGO based in London and is one among the many NGOs based outside India which brings out reports on alleged human rights violations, from time to time, all over the world including India. The methods used by such organizations to gather information have often been questioned, particularly as they are not free from bias. It is not the policy of the Government to react to such reports by International NGOs on internal matters of India. National Human Rights Commission has also not issued any rejoinder.

(c) Observers from Amnesty International undertake visits to India from time to time for studying Human Rights issues. However, observers of International Human Rights Organizations including Amnesty International are permitted to visit detention camps, jails and prisons only with prior permission.